

cans of Spanish origin or descent”, approved June 16, 1976 (15 U.S.C. 1516a);

(10) section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e));

(11) section 2204g of this title; or

(12) section 302 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 1010a) regarding the authority to collect data for the National Resources Inventory.

**(e) Information provided to Secretary of Commerce**

This section shall not prohibit the release of information under section 2204g(f)(2) of this title.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1770, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1657; Pub. L. 105-113, §4(a)(2), (b), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2276; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §348], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-207; Pub. L. 107-171, title II, §2004(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 236.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 107-171, §2004(b)(1), added par. (3).

Subsec. (d)(12). Pub. L. 107-171, §2004(b)(2), added par. (12).

1999—Subsec. (d)(10), (11). Pub. L. 106-113 added par. (10) and redesignated former par. (10) as (11).

1997—Subsec. (d)(10). Pub. L. 105-113, §4(a)(2), added par. (10).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105-113, §4(b), added subsec. (e).

**§ 2277. Contracts by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for services to be performed abroad**

Funds available to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) under this and subsequent appropriations shall be available for contracting with individuals for services to be performed outside of the United States, as determined by APHIS to be necessary or appropriate for carrying out programs and activities abroad. Such individuals shall not be regarded as officers or employees of the United States under any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

(Pub. L. 102-142, title VII, §737, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 915.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation act:

Pub. L. 101-506, title VI, §641, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1350.

**§ 2278. Consistency with international obligations of United States**

**(a) In general**

Prior to the promulgation of, or amendment to, any order or plan under a research and promotion program relating to research and promotion of any agricultural commodity or product, after November 28, 1990, where such order or plan would provide for an assessment on imports, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the United States Trade Representative regarding the consistency of the provisions of the order or plan with the international obligations of the United States.

**(b) Compliance with U.S. international obligations**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall take all steps necessary and appropriate to ensure that any order or plan or amendment to such order or plan, and the implementation and enforcement of any order or plan or amendment to such order or plan, or program as it relates to imports is nondiscriminatory and in compliance with the international obligations of the United States, as interpreted by the United States Trade Representative.

**(c) Construction**

Nothing in this section shall be construed as providing for a cause of action under this section.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1999T, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3928.)

**§ 2279. Outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers**

**(a) Outreach and assistance**

**(1) Program**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out an outreach and technical assistance program to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers—

(A) in owning and operating farms and ranches; and

(B) in participating equitably in the full range of agricultural programs offered by the Department.

**(2) Requirements**

The outreach and technical assistance program under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) enhance coordination of the outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts authorized under various agriculture programs; and

(B) include information on, and assistance with—

(i) commodity, conservation, credit, rural, and business development programs;

(ii) application and bidding procedures;

(iii) farm and risk management;

(iv) marketing; and

(v) other activities essential to participation in agricultural and other programs of the Department.

**(3) Grants and contracts**

**(A) In general**

The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, an eligible entity to provide information and technical assistance under this subsection.

**(B) Relationship to other law**

The authority to carry out this section shall be in addition to any other authority provided in this or any other Act.

**(C) Other projects**

Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts and other agreements with, an organization or institution that received funding under this section before January 1, 1996,